San Simeon Cal. Dec 8. '43

Mr August Hildebrand
Astoria Ore

Dear friend: In a recent issue of the Astorian-Budget
I certainly was much interested to read an article of yours
about Astoria of the old days, but with your memory
for facts and dates the paper could have given you more
space though it was quite an article at that. Dont
you realize you would confer a priceless boon to humanity
if you would write a book describing the events and incidents
of the old Astoria as we knew it. I
this I know is a sort of rambling account of Astoria in
the early days but you mention people and incidents that
happened then that makes me want to add to what
you have written. If I wanted to get into print I would
like to correct some statements of the Astorian Budget. Where
did they get the information that the Oregon bakery where Rita
Gilman, who married Wallace Berry was were they said it was
SPOKE
And another statement that spoke of Mrs Milligans death that her
husband was pastor of a church at 9th between Duane + Exchange
It should have stated that that church or rather where
they held services was in the old Van Dusen building up
stairs where the present Van Dusen building stands. I know
because I attended Sunday school there. This was located on
Cass St now named 18th St.
And about the rat terriers. How well I remember them,
Their owners would take them when rats were plentiful

and put them to work. Remember when they killed 30. by
actual count in the meat market of Wherity & Leo in Bond St
opposite the Occident hotel.
What memories the old Occident hotel brings up. Heard two
ex presidents speak from the balcony. Gen Grant and Rutherford B
Hayes. also John L. Sullivan. Herman the Great and lesser celebrities
you spoke of Indian George. No doubt you remember the pack of
hounds that accompanied him when he came to town and
created quite a stir. Also J.E. Beasley who hunted without dogs
but got his bear, deer and coyote. Dont know whether he
got a bounty for them or not. As you know he married Mrs
POWELL
Powell and that union is represented by Mrs Alf. Schroeder
Mrs S H Turner, another daughter and Ben Powell who I met it
Alameda some years ago.
you wrote about Frank J. Taylor. Did you ever know his dad.
And did you ever try to walk with Frank. J. He had an ungodly
long stride. about four feet to a stride and you had to trot to
keep up with him. Another pedestrian who was hard to keep
up was Herman F Prael whose short quick steps was hard to adopt
And also was John H. Smith who had an uncanny way to cover
the ground fast.
I dont just know when you came to Astoria and went to work
for Foard & Stokes but you were steamboating and wasnt it
Mike Gudescher the skipper.
Wasnt Foard & Stokes built in front of the old Farrell mill
or was there any sign of it when you were there?

I think Mrs Frank Dunnerberg of Seaside could answer that one as
she is a relative:
Were you in Astoria early enough to remember the Truchard & Flavel
store located northeast of the Occident hotel that went up in
flames and a hand pumping engine was used. I helped on
it but was in the air most of the time when the handles was
raised. M. D. Kant had a tailor shop in the same block
Other firms eastward were Wyard & Packard, Fisher Bros. Jeff's
restaurant, Ross Higgins and many others. Going WEST west on
Bond again was Flavel & Co. insurance and bankers. T. S. McKean
was book keeper whose children as far as I know living are
Mrs Katie Tee & Mrs Winnifred Gunn. who recently was employed
in the treasurers office. Still going west we come to the Carnahan
store Carnahan hall up stairs, where both places did a good
business in the gay '80's and 90's. Then DOWN down the line where
Sam Harris held forth as a saloon lodging house and many
sporting events were planned and paid off there. Opposite
was Wm Edgars cigar store with a lounging room for pilots of
that age.

Climatorio was further west, taking in about a block. Geo Hill
had his business in this same block but his business
was not real estate.

And the old Liberty hall owned by Job. Ross; It was the
only recreation hall in the city as Kremeyers and Fisk
+ Stokes hall was not built then.

Remember well when the price of admission with John

Jacks troupe was a salmon regardless of size and that company put on some good plays.

Wonder if those large rubber balls under that floor is still there? For those who knew, said made dancing easier. I think the old building is used for a meat market now

Down on the water front was the home of Judson Cole his brother father & mother. Not a pretensious home but Judsons life is linked with early Astoria. The Hobson family lived next to him near where the Kinney cannery was located later

Duplication?

#4

And going on farther west we come to the Carnahan store
which enjoyed a big business in the early 80s.
Further west ~~were~~ at the corner were Sam Harris saloon and
apartments where many sporting events took place or
rather headquarters where betting and losses were paid.
~~Opposit~~ Opposite were Wm Edgar cigar store and lounge
ing rooms for the pilots of that age.
Beyond that where the Chinese population held forth and
there was about 3 blocks of them taking in the J.W. Gearharts
store and Frank Parker store and restaurant. Noted in a
recent issue of the Budget of the death of young Hill, a
son of Geo Hill. quoting the father as in the real estate
business in early days. When I knew the father he
was in a different business.

And to keep on going west there was the Liberty Hall
where John Jack took in salmon for admittance fee when
cash was short. Wonder if those large rubber balls that
was used to put under the sills for easy ~~[illegible]~~ dances are
still there?. I think the old building is used for a meat
market now.

Going North we locate the home of Judson Cole, his
brother and crippled father. His mother brother &
father I knew well. The Hobson family lived next to
him near where the Kinney Cannery was located later
Further west lived Blue Skin" never knew his right name
but his daughter acquired notoriety through her associations

with a ~~[illegible]~~ Carrie Bradley in a Portland Murder Case which
filled the Oregonian front pages for a while. Her name
was Molly Bedam what her real name I dont know.
Still going West I came to The Trullinger ~~s~~ sawmill where
most of Astoria youth worked at times; The wages were good
and the boarding house food was good too. and John if you remember
John & Jim Ryan worked there also
but was a wonderful swimmer who swam the Columbia
and bet $20.00 he could duplicate the feat but no one took
him up.

No doubt you remember the prize fight held in the old
Trullinger mill light plant where Albert Johnson & Larry Sullivan
met and the Grants lost considerable money on the event
Speaking of the Grants. they were part and parcel of Astoria
early days From the old lady down to the children. Pete
Jack & Nate were great athlets and Will, Lester Kate & Mary
filled in in Astorias social life

Leaving well known celebrates I will go back to other
persons & ~~an~~ incidents,
Coming back to the old Liberty Hall again. Do you remember
the first ~~t~~ telephone reception that was sent from the
Occident hall to the theatre over wires, We paid our 50¢
for 1/2 hour entertainment and another world miracle
was revealed. Also had a panorama that night.
for good measure in which world events were rolled off
on big rollers with a demonstrater with pointer

Am wandering around the city remembering different events and people of whom I can remember. Coming back from Uniontown where the Finnish population was scarce than where the Cutting Pack-ing Co and Washington Cannery were the ~~t~~ only canneries back to the old Postoffice whose basement was flooded with water and where rafting was a delight for small boys of my age.

Opposite was the old wooden court house that was dismantled and parts were used to build the Swedish Advent Church on 8th & Kensington and the- Walton apts before the fire

Near there was the Twilight-rooming house on now Duane St whose daughter is now married to J. Walter Douglas who lives in Uniontown. Dont know his address

See him sometime if you wish to get Astoria news in the days that have gone. He probably can tell you of the days us youngsters used the new telephone that had just came out with tin cans and cord from our homes to the Daggett hotel now the Arlington.

On our street Cass St now 10th beginning at Franklin was the residence of D.C Ireland owner of the Astorian news-paper whose wife was eccentric though bright and raise[illegible] a large family. One of the sons is in the news paper business in Albany or Eugene now. Leonard is his name

Near the ~~tel~~ telephone office next to the Arlington hotel was the CH Bain sash & door factory and east of that was an old Babist Church whose adherents was babtized

on the beach at 11th St between Quarry & Exchange Sts
Further east on 12th was the pretentious home of D. K. Warren
who was one of the early pioneers and had a business
of meats and groceries at Warren & Eaton later Ross Higgins
& Co. Jos Hume had a cannery with net racks clear to 14th
before Fisher Bros was built &
Do you remember Ned O'Connor the genial butcher of Ross
Higgins who loved to tell ribald stories and later Pat O'
Hara whose laugh I can h[illegible] yet.
Back again down Bond St an rambling over that through
fare, Comes the old Occident hotel with Ben Gates and
his colored crew. No doubt you remembered them when they
lived nearly opposite the residence of Chas Wright Cor 8th
+ Commercial which took in the Episcopal church of
whom T. A Hyland was pastor about where the Spexarth
building is ~~un~~

(Unfinished letter
from
Sherman Pinnell)